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| 09/630,000 | 08/01/2000 | Bruce Tockman | 279.246US1 | 8111 |
| 21186 | 7590 | 02/16/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH 1600 TCF TOWER 121 SOUTH EIGHT STREET MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402 | | | EVANISKO, GEORGE ROBERT | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3762 | |

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/630,000
Filing Date: August 01, 2000
Appellant(s): TOCKMAN ET AL.

MAILED

FEB 16 2006

Group 3700

Thomas Obermark
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 12/12/05 appealing from the Office action mailed 3/17/04.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|---------|
| 6,249,708 | Nelson et al | 6-2001 |
| 5,935,159 | Cross, Jr. et al | 8-1999 |
| 4,640,983 | Comte et al | 2-1987 |
| 6,400,992 | Borgersen et al | 6-2002 |
| 5,849,032 | Van Venrooij | 12-1998 |
| 5,052,407 | Hauser et al | 10-1991 |

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

The 103 rejections in view of Nelson et al (6249708) have been withdrawn.

Claims 16-20, 24, 43, 45 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cross, Jr. et al (5935159). Cross discloses:

in figure 1, the claimed “lead body extending from a proximal end to a distal end and having an intermediate portion therebetween”;

in figures 3-6 and 12 and in column 3, line 55, the claimed “lead body including two or more coradial individually insulated coradial conductors”;

in figure 10 and column 4, line 59, the claimed “coradial conductors are wound about a single axis”;

in column 2, lines 6-32 the claimed “electrode assembly including at least one electrode electrically coupled with at least one of the conductors”.

In addition, Cross states in column 2, line 52, to column 3, line 9, and shows in figures 3-6 and 12, that each conductor can be different conductors to accommodate different currents and

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incorporates by reference Shoberg et (US Patent No. 5,584,873) and Laske et al (Patent No. 5,760,341). It is noted that Laske et al discuss the use of different conductors of different materials and different stiffness throughout his specification, and particularly in column 7, lines 34-43.

Therefore, Cross discloses the claimed invention and the use of different types of conductors, (stranded, coiled, having different diameters) individually insulated and wound except for the different conductors being different materials, wherein the first material has a different stiffness than a second material. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the lead as taught by Cross, with insulated conductors being different materials, wherein the first material has a different stiffness than a second material since it was known in the art that leads are provided with insulated conductors being different materials, wherein the first material has a different stiffness than a second material to provide different and required impedance/resistances, different current carrying capabilities, and/or different flexibility/stiffness to the lead. In addition, the first conductor extending from a connector ring to an electrode will provide the claimed limitation of the first conductor only extending over the second section. Also, it is inherent that the different conductors will have different electrical properties.

Claims 21-23, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cross, Jr et al.

Cross discloses the claimed invention but does not disclose expressly the first material being MP35N and the second material being Pt/Ta (claims 21 and 22), one of the conductors having a heat setting capability (claim 25), and the lead having a two or three dimensional bias.

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It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the lead as taught by Cross with the first material being MP35N and the second material being Pt/TA, because Applicant has not disclosed that the first material being MP35N and the second material being Pt/TA and the first conductor disposed only in the second and third sections provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with any two different materials having different stiffness for the conductors as taught by Cross in view of one having ordinary skill in the art, because it would provide a lead having different conductors with different stiffness to provide required current carrying capabilities and/or different flexibility/stiffness to the lead.

Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify Cross to obtain the invention as specified in the claim(s).

In addition, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the lead as taught by Cross, with a conductor having heat setting capabilities and the lead having a two or three dimensional bias since it was known in the art that leads are provided with conductors having heat setting capabilities to allow the lead to be easily shaped into a bias configuration and since it was known in the art that leads are provided with a two or three dimensional bias to allow the lead to be easily located in a particular part of the body and allow the lead to remain in that location.

(10) Response to Argument

The 103 rejections in view of Nelson et al (6249708) have been withdrawn. Nelson shows coradial wound conductors that are insulated from each other by the inner body member, but does not show the claimed “individually insulated” conductors.

The argument on pages 15 and 16 that no objective reference was provided in a fully developed rejection under 35 USC 103 in view of Cross establishing that it is well known in the art to use “insulated conductors being different materials...since it was known in the art that leads are provided with insulated...different flexibility/stiffness to the lead” is not persuasive. The MPEP states in 2144 and 2144.03 that rationale supporting a rejection under 35 USC 103 may be reasoned from common knowledge in the art. The applicant asked for references in the amendment and remarks of 12/22/03 to support the obviousness rejection and the examiner provided the references. Patent number 4,640,983 to Comte and patent number 6,400,992 to Borgersen et al were provided to show that it is obvious to use conductors of different materials and different stiffness to provide different and required impedance/resistances, different current carrying capabilities, and/or different flexibility/stiffness to the lead. In addition, it is noted that Cross incorporates by reference the patent of Laske et al. which discusses the use of different materials and stiffness.

The argument on page 16 that none of the references (Comte and Borgersen) were used in a fully developed rejection under 35 USC 103 is not persuasive since the examiner provided the references upon applicant’s request and to show that it is well known in the art to use conductors of different materials having different stiffness.

The argument of page 16 that the rejection does not state how or why Cross would be in need of conductors using different materials and having different stiffness is not persuasive since the examiner provided the motivation that "it is obvious to use conductors of different materials and different stiffness to provide different and required impedance/resistances, different current carrying capabilities, and/or different flexibility/stiffness to the lead". In addition, it is noted that Cross uses different conductors and incorporates by reference the patent to Laske et al.

The argument on pages 16 and 17 that Cross teaches away from the proposed modification because Cross teaches the use of sections of different materials to provide different stiffness to the lead is not persuasive since Cross does not preclude the use of conductors having different stiffness. Stiffness can be provided to the lead in multiple ways, such as by using different materials for the lead body, different materials for the conductors, additional conductors in certain sections of the lead body, stiffening stylets or a combination of any of the preceding. Although Cross mentions in one section an alternate embodiment for providing different flexibility and stiffness to the lead, Cross does not state this is the only way to provide different stiffness to the lead or that different conductors having different stiffness can not be used.

The arguments on page 19 that no objective reference was provided in a fully developed rejection under 35 USC 103 and that the rejection does not state how or why Cross would be in need of the conductors having heat setting capabilities are not persuasive. The applicant asked for references in the amendment and remarks of 12/22/03 to support the obviousness rejection, and the examiner provided the references. Patent number 5,849,032 to Van Venrooij and patent number 5,052,407 to Hauser show that it is well known in the art to provide leads with conductors formed of heat setting material in order to provide the lead with a two or three

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dimensional bias to allow the lead to be easily located in a particular part of the body and allow the lead to remain in that location.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

George Evanisko


GEORGE R. EVANISKO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

2/14/06

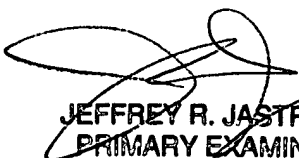
Conferees:

Angela Sykes



ANGELA D. SYKES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Jeffrey Jastrzab


JEFFREY R. JASTRZAB
PRIMARY EXAMINER
2/15/06